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General and complete disarmament: assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Japan, Madagascar, Mali and Senegal: draft resolution

Assistance to States for curbing illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Considering that the illicit proliferation and circulation of and traffic in small arms constitute an impediment to development, a threat to populations and to national and regional security and are a factor contributing to the destabilization of States,

Gravely concerned at the extent of the illicit proliferation and circulation of and traffic in small arms in the States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion,

Welcoming the conclusions of the United Nations advisory missions sent to the affected countries of the subregion by the Secretary-General to study the best way of curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and ensuring their collections,

Welcoming also the designation of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat as the coordination centre for all United Nations activities concerning small arms,

Thanking the Secretary-General for his report on the causes of the conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, and bearing in mind the statement on small arms made by the President of the Security Council on 24 September 1999,

Welcoming the recommendations made at the meeting of the States of the subregion held at Banjul, Algiers, Bamako, Yamoussoukro and Niamey to establish close regional cooperation with a view to strengthening security,

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Welcoming also the initiative taken by the Economic Community of West African States concerning the declaration of a moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa,

Recalling the Algiers Declaration adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999, and bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the illicit proliferation and circulation of and traffic in small arms,

Bearing in mind the reports of the Panel of Government Experts on Small Arms,

Emphasizing the need to advance efforts towards wider cooperation and better coordination in the struggle against the accumulation, proliferation and widespread use of small arms through the common understanding reached at the meeting on small arms held at Oslo on 13 and 14 July 1998 and the Brussels Call for Action adopted by the International Conference on Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development, held at Brussels on 12 and 13 October 1998,

1. *Welcoming* with satisfaction the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa, held at Abuja on 9 May 2000, *encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts, in the context of the implementation of resolution 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and of the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, to curb the illicit circulation of small arms and to collect such arms in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity;

2. *Also encourages* the setting up in the countries in the Saharo-Sahelian subregion of national commissions against the proliferation of small arms, and invites the international community to support as far as possible the smooth functioning of the national commissions where they have been set up;

3. *Welcomes* the Declaration of a Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States at Abuja on 31 October 1998, and urges the international community to give its support to the implementation of the moratorium;

4. *Recommends* the involvement of organizations and associations of civil society in efforts to combat the proliferation of small arms in the context of the national commissions and their participation in the implementation of the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms;

5. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States, held at Bamako on 24 and 25 March 1999, on the modalities for the implementation of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development, and welcomes the adoption by the meeting of a plan of action;

6. *Expresses its full support* for the appeal launched by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth session for a coordinated African approach, under the auspices of the

Organization of African Unity, to the problems posed by the illicit proliferation and circulation of and traffic in small arms, bearing in mind the experiences of the various regions in this regard;

7. *Encourages* cooperation among State bodies, international organizations and civil society in the combating illicit traffic in small arms and supporting the process of collecting such arms;

8. *Also expresses its full support* for the convening of an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects no later than 2001, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/77 E of 4 December 1998;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to examine the question and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them".